

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 29 June 1954

SUBJECT Soviet Units along the Lower Austria
Demarcation Line

NO. OF PAGES 1 2

PLACE
1ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U.S.C., 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. Since the abolition, during 1953, of direct controls at the interzonal demarcation line of the Soviet zone of Austria, a number of Soviet troops have been withdrawn from the interzonal border of Lower Austria. Soviet border guard units remain in the following localities: Aspang am Wechsel, Semmering, Salzaletten, St. Aegydy, Mitterbach, Klein Hollenstein, Gaflenz, Ennsdorf/St. Valentin, Wienerbruch, Gaming and St. Peter in der Au. Members of these Soviet border units continue to perform limited duty at the former control points. They also walk through trains which stop at the railroad stations without, however, examining any travelers.
2. Aspang am Wechsel (E 16°6' - N 47°33'). A detachment of three or four officers and approximately 25 to 30 enlisted men are quartered in the Hotel Post. They set up a barrier and a sentry box south of the point where the Bahnhofstrasse branches off from the Wechsel highway. The barrier is constantly open and is manned by two soldiers. They will halt automobiles which drive through the control point at excessive speed. A two-man guard post is located in the Aspang railroad station. All members of this detachment wear crimson shoulder boards.
3. Semmering (E 15°50' - N 47°38'). A border unit is located at the Hotel Post. It is composed of five officers and 30 men. The guard post located at the southern tunnel exit of the Vienna-Graz railroad line as well as the control post on the Seestrasse were abolished. The control point on federal highway 17 was moved 300 meters farther north on Lower Austria territory. The newly ~~erected~~ barrier is constantly open and manned by two soldiers. At the railroad station, there is a permanent guard of from three to four men. The soldiers all wear crimson shoulder boards.
4. Salzaletten (E 15°27' - N 47°48'). A Soviet guard detachment of 20 men under the command of a lieutenant is quartered on highway 22, in the building of the forest administration. The road barrier is always open and guarded by two soldiers. They do not check vehicles or pedestrians. A telephone line runs from the building to Wienerbruck. The soldiers keep four dogs in the surrounding woods.
5. Mitterbach (E 15°18' - N 47°50'). A guard detachment of one first lieutenant and 20 men is quartered in Mitterbach. The barrier on Mariazell highway is open and guarded by two soldiers. Occasionally two soldiers go to the station and walk through the train. No permanent guard is located at the railroad station. Since 18 March, a two-man patrol has been circulating through town day and night.

[illegible]

SECRET

25X1

6. Klein Hollenstein (E 14°45' - N 47°49'). One officer and 15 men are quartered in town. They no longer ~~man~~ a check point on the highway.
7. Gaflenz (E 14°44' - N 47°52'). Four officers and 60 men are quartered in Gaflenz, Pettendorf #19. No control point remains on the highway. Two guards are stationed at the railroad station. The unit uses two trucks and a jeep.
8. Ennsdorf (E 14°30' - N 48°13'). A Soviet unit of seven or eight officers and 80 men is quartered in houses #8 and #17. The unit has four or five trucks, a motorcycle with sidecar and a horse-drawn vehicle. The soldiers wear crimson shoulder boards and carry light weapons. The road barrier at the Enns bridge is constantly open and is guarded by two soldiers. They do not inspect anyone passing through. The Soviets erected a slow-down sign at the bridge approach and the guards stop vehicles which do not obey the sign.
9. At the Ennsdorf/St. Valentin railroad station there is a guard post consisting of one officer and four men. They are relieved daily by truck from Ennsdorf. They walk through the trains but do not inspect any civilians.
10. In Wienerbruck, Gaming, and St. Peter in der Au there have long existed small Soviet garrisons which apparently served as supply and base stations for the control posts formerly located all along the demarcation line. When the control posts were abolished last year, most of the guards returned to the garrisons in these localities. It has been observed that, at irregular intervals, individual groups depart from these garrisons and are replaced by new soldiers.
11. Wienerbruck (E 15°19' - N 47°51'). The strength of the Soviet unit in Wienerbruck is estimated at four officers and 25 men. The detachment is led by a major who, before August 1953, also was commanding officer at St. Aegy. The unit occupies the Hotel Burger. Some of the troops formerly at Wienerbruck are believed to have been transferred to Gaming.
12. Gaming (E 15°07' - N 47°55'). Part of the former monastery has been occupied by Soviets since 1945. After the control points in Langau, Mendling and Klein Hollenstein were abolished, the guard troops were pulled back to Gaming. The unit strength now is 40 to 50 officers and 300 to 500 men. The unit is motorized and equipped with heavy infantry weapons and antitank guns. A lieutenant-colonel is in command. Since the motor park is completely behind walls, it is impossible to estimate the number of vehicles. one officer and two men have been patrolling the town.
13. St. Peter in der Au (E 14°37' - N 48°4'). The quartermaster unit located in St. Peter has been reinforced recently by troops which have been pulled back from control points at Wachtberg, Behamberg, and Heidershofen-Ramingdorf. Presumably, additional troops came from the unit first in Mauer near Amstetten. The strength of the unit now is estimated at 40 to 50 officers and 250 to 300 men. The whole garrison is quartered in three houses, #29, #64 and #92, as well as in a large barracks.
14. The unit has a motor park with a number of Studebaker vehicles. Armament consists of light infantry weapons and antitank guns of medium caliber. Combat training is carried out at a training area near Ertl.

SECRET